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Commencements

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had been failing in health since his breakdown in November, 1900. The beautiful new academy building, for which he had so earnestly toiled, completed, and freed from debt, was to be dedicated Thursday, June 12. On Wednesday, at the twilight hour, in front of the building into which he had builded his hopes, the body, borne by students, was laid to rest. The building, named Cheney Hall, was dedicated according to the program. The happy consummation of the hopes of many was due to Mr. Cheney, whose efforts were heartily seconded by Sec. Theodore Clifton and the Education Society. The building cost over $8,000. The graduating class numbered six. Rev. W. M. Ellis has been elected principal and president of the board of trustees.

Phillips Academy, Andover, graduated ninety-three boys last week. Dr. Harry P. Dewey gave them the baccalaureate sermon. A feature of special interest was the announcement that the board of trustees had created the office of vice-principal, to be filled by Mr. Alfred E. Stearns. Mr. Stearns is a graduate of Amherst College, 1894, and Andover Seminary, 1900, and has been registrar of the academy for two years past. As a nephew of Dr. Bancroft, a grandson of President Stearns, and a direct descendant of Jonathan French, who, two generations earlier, was the lifelong Andover pastor and one of the academy's first trustees in 1778, he is coming back to his own in form and place of service. He is very popular with the student body, and when Judge Bishop announced his election at the Commencement exercises, only the sacredness of the house where they were held kept the boys, in addition to their long-continued applause, from breaking out into the regular "Andover cheer." The fine Borden gymnasium is now completed and the new archæological building to be ready in the autumn, as also the "Brothers Field," given by Mr. George B. Knapp of Boston in memory of his brother, Arthur M. Knapp, late librarian in the Boston Public Library. Dr. McKenzie was elected president of the Alumni Association.

Woburn's New Pastor

Early in the winter the old First Church sorrowfully parted with its honored leader, Rev. Dr. Doremus Scudder. On June 10 a large and representative council installed his successor, Rev. Stephen A. Norton, D. D., of San Diego, Cal.

Dr. Norton is no stranger to Eastern life, though most of his ministry has been in the interior and far West. He was born in New York State, graduated at Amherst College, 1878, and received his theological training at Hartford and Chicago Seminaries. After eleven years' service in Illinois the failing health of a member of his family led him to the Pacific coast, and for the past eight years he has been pastor of the growing church at San Diego. During his fruitful ministry here a fine church edifice has been erected and the membership has shown marked gains.

Dr. Norton's statement before the council was a fresh, incisive and vital presentation of the great fundamentals of the faith, and revealed a well-trained mind, spiritual insight and sympathy with the best in progressive orthodoxy. It was received with marked favor. At the installation service Dr. A. H.

REV. STEPHEN A. NORTON, D. D.

Plumb preached the sermon. Dr. H. N. Hoyt, formerly of Sacramento, Cal., and an old friend of Dr. Norton, gave the felicitous charge to the pastor, while another old college friend, Rev. D. A. Newton, voiced the welcome of Woburn conference. Dr. March, the honored pastor *emeritus*, gave in his inimitable manner the charge to the people.

It is matter for congratulation that this important pulpit has been so speedily and happily filled. Under Dr. Norton's wise and consecrated leadership the Woburn church may be expected to gain in strength and influence.

F. S. H.

A Sunday School Tour in Berkshire

BY REV. W. T. MCELVEEN, PH. D., BOSTON

This recent brief campaign was under the auspices of the Massachusetts State Sunday School Association. The towns visited were Adams, West Stockbridge, Dalton and Huntington. In each, on consecutive days, district Sunday school conventions or conferences were held to consider methods of administration, organizing boys' clubs, managing Junior Endeavor Societies.

It was a great pleasure to meet the ministers. Mr. Penniman of Adams has the best Beecher library in the world and tells many interesting stories of the great Brooklyn preacher. Mr. Andrews knows Governor Crane as few men do and is enthusiastically fond of him. Indeed, everybody in the Berkshires is. Evidences of his mindfulness are everywhere. Mr. Curtis has been pastor at West Stockbridge for nineteen years. His ancestors were the original settlers of the near-by village of Curtisville. The ministry was well represented at the conferences.

With few exceptions, the pastors teach or visit the school regularly. Many of them have week day classes. Few, however, are catechetical. Some superintendents of Junior Endeavor Societies testify that separating boys from girls and holding a weekly session for each works better than the mixed societies. In a number of places Junior work accomplishes more than any other agency.

Efforts are being made to hold the older young people by educational classes. At Adams a modified form of institutional work is carried on in the splendidly equipped parish house. The basement of the chapel at Dalton is given over to the boys and youth for lessons in carpentry and wood carving. Other pastors have nature study classes, and by walks and talks with their boys and girls seek to know them and to acquaint them with the finer things of life. One minister told me that he had made no investment that yielded larger dividends than the gift of Warren's Almost Fourteen to the adolescents of his Sunday school. The feeling is growing that this is the most hopeful period for religious work. If we only knew how to take advantage of the tide of adolescence at its flow, we might lift the youth over the bar of irresolution into the haven of the divine kingdom. This is nature's day of grace, when the boy or girl may be led without jar or convulsion into the life spiritual and eternal.

Decision Day is being used by not a few Sunday schools as the time when the boys and girls pass into the church as naturally and as easily as from the grammar school to the high. It is arranged for far ahead. Conferences are held by the pastor with parents and teacher. Instruction in the pastor's week day class has Decision Day in view, and when it arrives it is a day of fruit gathering.

Some Berkshire ministers are saying that the baptized child is a member of the church and ought to be enrolled as such, and that the question to be put to the adolescent is not, "Will you unite with the church?" but, rather, "Will you not on your own account now affirm your allegiance to Christ and to the church of your parents and childhood?"

A Duluth Debt Raising

Pilgrim Church, Duluth, Minn., rejoices over the removal of a mortgage of $15,000. When the edifice was planned in 1888, a resolution was adopted providing that it should cost "not more than the amount subscribed." Unfortunately, this could not be carried out, partly because of a fire, which destroyed the building when at the point of completion. Part of the loss fell upon the church. A mortgage was inevitable, and for fourteen years interest has been paid.

This year the obligation had to be paid or renewed. The people were brought to feel that the time had come to attack the principal. The full amount looked too large to take care of at once. Aid was solicited from the Church Building Society, which promised a loan of $5,000 without interest when the remainder of the debt had been